mer articles during May 1985 and May 1984 are given in the following statement:

	Per cent Variations* May	
	1985	1984
All Commodities	0.5	1.6
Cereals	1.6	0.1
Pulses	0.1	8.4
Fruits & Vegetables	7.0	7.7
Milk & milk products	—0.1	0.1
Eggs, fish & meat	4.4	4.4
Condiments & Spices	2.0	—1.2
Tea	—6.0	—1.4
Sugar, Khandsari & Gur	3.5	6.6
Edible Oils	—1.8	1.1
Drugs & medicines	No change	0.1
Soap	No change	No change
Cotton textiles	0.1	—0.2
Matches	No change	No change

*Last week of May over last wetk of April.

(b) The thrust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system, enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liquidity in the system under control. The Central Government has advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing.

News-item captioned 'India's balance of Payment Position Alarming'

102. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'India's balance of payments position alarming' which appeared in the *Statesman* on the 31st May, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that but for the IMF loan and non-resident deposits, the country would not be having any foreign currency reserves; and

(c) if so, what are the details of measures being taken by Government to encourage exports and also encourage non-resident deposits to build up the foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANADRHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Movements in foreign exchange reserves are the net result of all the external economic transactions of a country, including imports and exports, as such it would not be correct to identify these movements with any specific component. The Government has been making concerted efforts to ensure that the country's balance of payments position remains sound. The Central Government Budget for 1985-86 and the Import and Export Policy, covering a period of three years ending March 1988, contain various measures designed to promote exports and achieve import substitution. Regarding non-resident deposits, the unchanged interest rates offered in an environment of declining interest rates on deposits in the international market act as an added incentive for higher inflows into these accounts.

Jute production and price

103. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is going to be a bumper jute crop during the current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that jute price has declined;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of West Bengal and Bihar have drawn the attention of the Central Government regarding the decline in the price of jute; and